



# News

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Utah Centenarians Recall the St. Valentine's Day Massacre, Al Capone & Hershey Bars**

While working at Chicago's Cook County Hospital in 1929, Dr. Russell B. Clark made the official announcement that seven bullet-ridden bodies were dead. The victims were part of what became known as the St. Valentine's Day Massacre. Now almost 107, Dr. Clark will attend today's 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Centenarians Party with his younger sister, LeOra Larsen, 100.

Each of the approximately 45 centenarians expected to participate at Utah State Fairpark's Bonneville Room beginning at 10:30 a.m. Monday, July 9, has a story to tell. And 75 of the state's 120 residents who are 100 years or older wrote biographies for a yearbook compiled by the Division of Aging and Adult Services. It will be distributed Monday.

Some of their recollections include:

- Mr. A.B. Blake, almost 105, was born in the Oklahoma Territory, conducted tours to nearby Indian ruins for tourists while living in New Mexico and later owned an auto repair business
- Mr. Allan C. Jackson, almost 104, spent most of his career as a waiter in classy restaurants and hotels. He married seven times. He credits his long life to socializing with people and avoiding worry. He also said he once met Al Capone
- Mrs. Rhea Barnett, 109, is Utah's oldest known resident. She remembers her first ride in an automobile at 16, attending a dance with former LDS Church President Ezra Taft Benson and "raising nine wonderful children."

Centenarians born in 1907 arrived the same year as taxis with meters, Hershey bars and United Parcel Service. They are older than Corn Flakes, Mickey Mouse and the SOS Distress signal.

The centenarian population is growing rapidly. The 2000 Census estimated that Utah had 155 centenarians. The state had contact with 120 of them. Their population is expected to reach 1,400 by 2050.

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